

Modiola lutea, discovered in the Bay of Biscay between 677 and 1960 metres; *Taranis Mörchi*, a boreal species, abyssal in the Atlantic; *Trochus gemmulatus* and *Zizyphinus suturalis*, fossil in the Italian Pliocene, and found living in the Bay of Biscay; and *Tectura fulva*, an arctic mollusk.

Combining the Mollusca of all our deep dredgings (555–2660 metres) we obtain a total of about 120 species; but only thirty of these can be regarded as abyssal*. All the deep-sea species of the Mediterranean without exception occur also in the Atlantic Ocean. It therefore seems to be demonstrated that the Mediterranean receives its deep-sea fauna from the Atlantic, and that there has not been a centre of creation for it. It remains to be ascertained whether the fauna of the superior strata, characterized by a great number of species localized in the Mediterranean, is also derived from the Lusitanian fauna.

The abyssal forms of the Mediterranean have been dredged in the Atlantic generally at considerable depths. The Mediterranean therefore only contains the Mollusca which can bear a rather high temperature. The arctic forms fossilized in the glacial deposits of Sweden and the British Isles appear no longer to exist in the present Mediterranean, although they were abundant there during the newer Pliocene period (deposits of Ficarazzi). The temperature of the Mediterranean has consequently changed gradually; it is probable that it was not then constant, and that a communication with very cold seas brought arctic Mollusca into it. It would be interesting to ascertain whether, in the great depths of the eastern Mediterranean and of the Black Sea, there may not exist some survivors of the glacial fauna of the Pliocene of Ficarazzi.—*Comptes Rendus*, April 24, 1882, p. 1201.

A Zoological Station at Villafranca.

We have received from Dr. J. Barrois an intimation that the French government have recently decided upon establishing a new zoological station at Villafranca, of which the direction will be in his hands. The purpose for which it is specially founded is that of furnishing facilities for the study of the rich marine fauna of the locality, which yields in interest to no other in the Mediterranean, by the many naturalists who may be attracted to Villafranca by the charms of the place and its surroundings; and Dr. Barrois particularly expresses a hope that many English zoologists may be induced to avail themselves of the advantages thus offered to them at a much less distance from home than the older establishment at Naples. Dr. Barrois promises a particularly warm welcome to our countrymen.

* For example, *Terebratella septata*, *Lima Sarsi*, *Pecten Hoskinsi*, *Arinus granulatus*, *Malletia cuneata*, *Arca pectunculoides*, *Leda messaniensis*, *L. striolata*, *Limopsis aurita*, *L. minuta*, *Pholadomya Loveni*, *Modiola lutea*, *Dacrydium vitreum*, *Dentalium agile*, *Cadulus tumidosus*, *Taranis Mörchi*, *Helia tenella*, *Pyramidella minuscula*, *Pleurotoma Loprestiana*, *Tectura fulva*, *Columbella costulata*, *Turbo romettensis*, *Trochus gemmulatus*, *Rissoa subsoluta*, *Eulima stenostoma*, *Craspedotus Tinei*, *Trophon multilamellosus*, &c.